

REMARKS

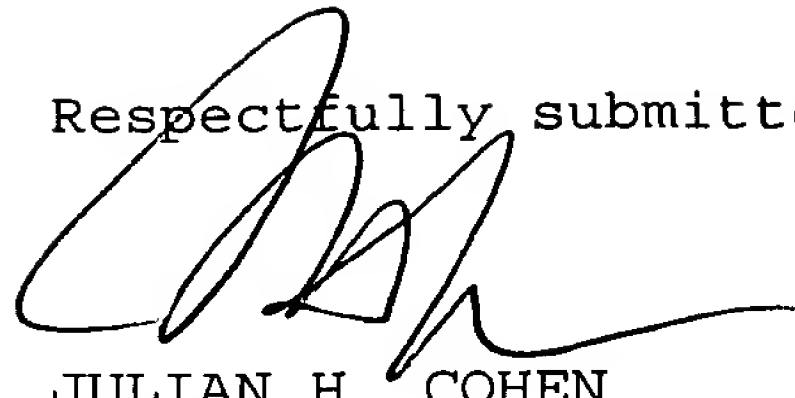
This application contains claims 1 -31. Claims 10 and 26 have been canceled. Claims 1, 11, 16, 27 and 31 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 10 -14 and 26 -29 were objected to for depending from rejected base claims but were deemed to recite allowable subject matter. Applicant has consequently amended the limitations of claims 10 and 26 into independent claims 1, 16 and 31, while canceling claims 10 and 26. Claims 11 and 27 have been amended to depend from claims 1 and 16.

Claims 1-9, 15-25, 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) over Wong (U.S. Patent 6,700,891) in view of Heddaya et al. (U.S. Patent 6,622,157) and, with respect to some of the claims, further in view of Coile et al. (U.S. Patent 6,006,268), McKee et al. (U.S. Patent 5,477,531) or Tams et al. (U.S. Patent 6,327,620). While disagreeing with the grounds of rejection, Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 16 and 31 as noted above for the sake of expediting prosecution. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the subject matter of the original claims in a continuation of this application. Amended claims 1, 16 and 31 now recite subject matter, formerly contained in claims 10 and 26, that the Examiner found to be allowable over the cited art. Claims 1, 16 and 31 are thus believed to be in condition for allowance, as are dependent claims 2 -9, 11-15, 17-25 and 30, which depend from claim 1 or 16.

Applicant believes the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the objections and grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these amendments and remarks, a prompt notice of allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JH Cohen', written over the typed name.

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